

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the outstanding office action is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 13 remain in this application. Claims 14 - 21 have been canceled herein.

1. Restriction Requirement

The Examiner issued a Restriction Requirement identifying the following groups of claims as being drawn to potentially distinct inventions:

- Group I. Claims 1 - 13, drawn to a process, classified in class 65, subclass 414; and
- Group II. Claims 14 - 21, drawn to an apparatus, classified in class 65, subclass 531.

The Examiner asserted that these inventions may be regarded as independent and distinct from one another because Groups I and II are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The Examiner asserts that in this case the apparatus can be used to practice another and materially different process such as contacting the bait rod simultaneously with the silica producing gas and fluorine-based gas.

In a telephone conference with the undersigned attorney of record, a provisional election to Group I, claims 1 - 13 was made, with traverse. Applicants have reconsidered and now hereby elect the invention of Group I, upon which claims 1-13 read, without traverse.

As a formality, Applicants hereby cancel claims 14 - 21, without prejudice.

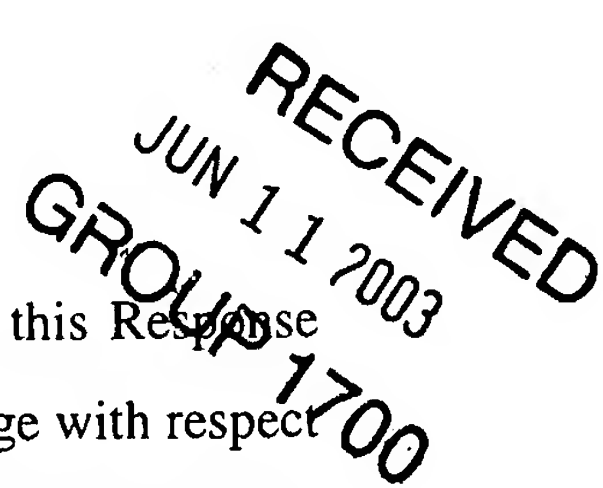
2. Allowed Claims/Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 1 - 13.

3. Conclusion

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Applicants believe that no extension of time is necessary to make this Response timely. Should Applicants be in error, Applicants respectfully request that the Office grant



such time extension pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) as necessary to make this Response timely, and hereby authorizes the Office to charge any necessary fee or surcharge with respect to said time extension to the deposit account of the undersigned firm of attorneys, Deposit Account 03-3325.

Please direct any questions or comments to Randall S. Wayland at 607-974-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8: I hereby certify that this paper and any papers referred to herein are being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service, as first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the Commissioner of Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 6/5/03

Randall S. Wayland, Signature